

BASARA

TM

Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol. 15



shōjo

BASARA™

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Story and Art by
Yumi Tamura

Basara

Vol. #15

Shôjo Edition

Story and Art by

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Shôjo Edition

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
BASARA is rated T+ for Older Teen.
Recommended for ages 16 and up.
Contains realistic violence.



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In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turned fertile lands into deserts and brought human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. Three hundred years later, a new hope was born.

At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village placed their hopes in Tatara, their Chief's son, raising him as the "Boy of Destiny."

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved through strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister Sarasa to lead their people in his name, or all will be lost.

Sarasa has achieved victory over the Red King in Kyushu and the Blue King in Seiran, gaining many allies along the way. She has also proven herself in Okinawa to the south and the Tohoku region in the north. Her closest comrades now know the truth about her gender; her confession has galvanized them further. At last, the rebel clans possessing the four swords of legend have been united.

Meanwhile, the Red King's recklessness has inspired a coup. After fleeing alone, Shuri has been forced to reevaluate his perspective of the world and start from scratch to prove himself a worthy leader. Determined to retake his capital, Shuri has snuck into Suo City with Nakijin while waiting for his newly acquired troops in Shikoku to be ready.

Also waging guerilla warfare in Suo City while awaiting reinforcements, Sarasa's efforts have resulted in tragedy on all sides. Worse, the Red King has regained control, and Sarasa's scheme to cut off the Red Palace's water has destroyed the underground waterways for the whole city. Torn by the damage she has caused to the people as well as those fighting for her, she has wandered into the desert only to stumble across Shuri...



Sarasa (disguised as Tataru)

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tataru were born, a prophecy was made. "This is a child of destiny..." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tataru was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up mostly in his shadow. When the Red King's forces kill Tataru, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that ~~she~~ *he* is the real Child of Destiny. Although she has finally confessed her gender to her closest allies, during past visits to hot springs, she has met a curious young man named Shuri, who has been her primary outlet for being completely herself.



Hayato

His deal to pretend to be Tataru for the Red King's cousin, Shido, ended in disaster, so Hayato decided to join the "real" Tataru.

He has since learned he's the descendant of Rasho, leader of the Suzaku, allies of Byakko.



Kaku

Byakko Village's military advisor and trainer, Kaku is loyal to Sarasa's family and the "Boy of Destiny." Kaku and the prophet Nagi have known Sarasa since she was a child.



Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be

extremely informed and influential. He also has a secret identity—Kicho, a famous performer among a traveling troupe of dancing ladies. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tataru's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.



Asagi

His pale skin and refined demeanor belie his ruthlessness and deadly skills. Once one of the Blue King's personal bodyguards, Asagi

allowed the Blue King to die, for Asagi himself is the true Blue King. Currently allied with "Tataru," his participation with the rebels is primarily out of personal curiosity and entertainment, not noble intentions.



Muratake

Rescued from a blizzard by Nachi, Muratake is one of the "Four Virtues," a group of elite spies who aid Asagi. He has fallen into disfavor

because of his contact with Nachi.



Nagi

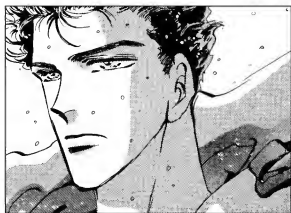
Extremely wise, Nagi is the blind prophet who declared the prophecy at the birth of Tataru and Sarasa. Also a priest, a doctor and a teacher, Nagi

has educated Sarasa despite others who questioned the wisdom of teaching so much to a girl.



Yato

An exceptionally fast horse, this proud stallion was Tataru's steed, and Tataru is his only rider.



The Red King

Once in charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of the King of Japan's four sons. Prophesied to bring misfortune, King Ukon branded him a slave. Only a privileged few call him by his name—Shuri. Hounded by threats from abroad and his family, he was a ruthless but effective ruler, crushing those who opposed him. The rebels of Byakko Village is just one in a long list of rebel groups he has suppressed. But he has been ousted from his throne and is learning to be his own leader, not an extension of

his father. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. He is now using the title "Tiger King of the Desert" and "Red Tiger."



Nakijin

Serious, kind and skilled in karate, he is one of Doctor Basho's pupils and a long-time friend of Yuna's. He has followed Shuri from Okinawa and become one

of Shuri's "Council of Four."



Hijiri

Learned in batto-jutsu—the art of the sword—he's the leader of the Tengu Faction, a somewhat radical group of young Hongu monks in Kumano that has chosen to aid "Tatara."



Nachi

Spirited and daring, Nachi is Hijiri's second and the son of the head priest at the Great Kumano Hongu Shrine.



Doctor Basho

Keenly perceptive with an acerbic wit, this mentor of Nagi is a highly skilled physician who resides in Okinawa.



Sakaki

An up and coming advisor to the Red King before the coup, he toiled faithfully on Suo City's aqueduct while waiting for his King's

promised return. He is now one of the Red King's "Council of Four."



Chacha

A strong leader and fighter, she was once a pirate chief but is now one of Tatara's generals. Captain of the rebel flagship, she has mus-

tered Tatara's forces in Sakurajima.



Zaki

Laconic, intelligent and powerful, Zaki is in love with Chacha and will do anything for her. Fiercely loyal to his chief, Zaki aids

her best by being her second in command and utilizing his remarkable skills as a sailor and fighter on her behalf.

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CRIMSON TALE 8: IN YOUR ARMS

I DON'T
EVEN
KNOW
WHAT
"LOVE"
IS.

MAYBE
THIS
ISN'T
LOVE AT
ALL.

BUT...

...I JUST
WANT TO
STAY
RIGHT
HERE,
LIKE
THIS.



MAYBE I
SHOULD'VE
ASKED
WHAT HE
WAS DOING
HERE.

BUT I
WAS
AFRAID
HE'D ASK
ME THE
SAME.

WHAT IF
HE WAS
OPPOSED
TO
TATARA?

I WANTED TO
FORGET
EVERYTHING.

I WANTED
TO RUN
AWAY.

I DIDN'T CARE
IF IT MADE ME
A COWARD.

I JUST
WANTED TO
BE SARASA...

JUST
SARASA,
AND NO ONE
ELSE.





I THOUGHT
OF ASKING...

BUT I KNEW IT
WOULD HURT.

AND WHEN
SHE SMILED
AT ME AND
HELD ME
CLOSE...

...NOTHING
ELSE
EXISTED.

I JUST WANTED
TO TAKE
SARASA IN MY
ARMS.

I WAS SO
FULL OF
ANGUISH.

MAYBE I
SHOULD HAVE
ASKED WHAT
SHE WAS DOING
HERE.

BUT
SUDDENLY IT
DIDN'T
MATTER.



CRIMSON TALE 8:
IN YOUR ARMS





TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

Hello!

Thanks for all your support!
It's hard to believe we're at Volume
15 already. I figure there'll be lots
of feedback on this one.
Please be gentle!



SEND ME YOUR
COMMENTS!

Please read my other
stuff in Deluxe Comics!

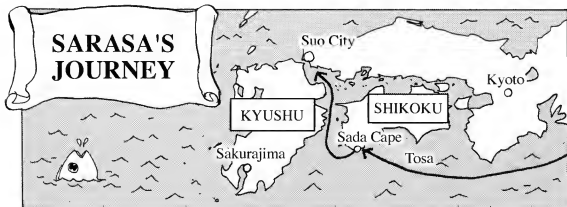
(The special issue
for Detsu-Comi)

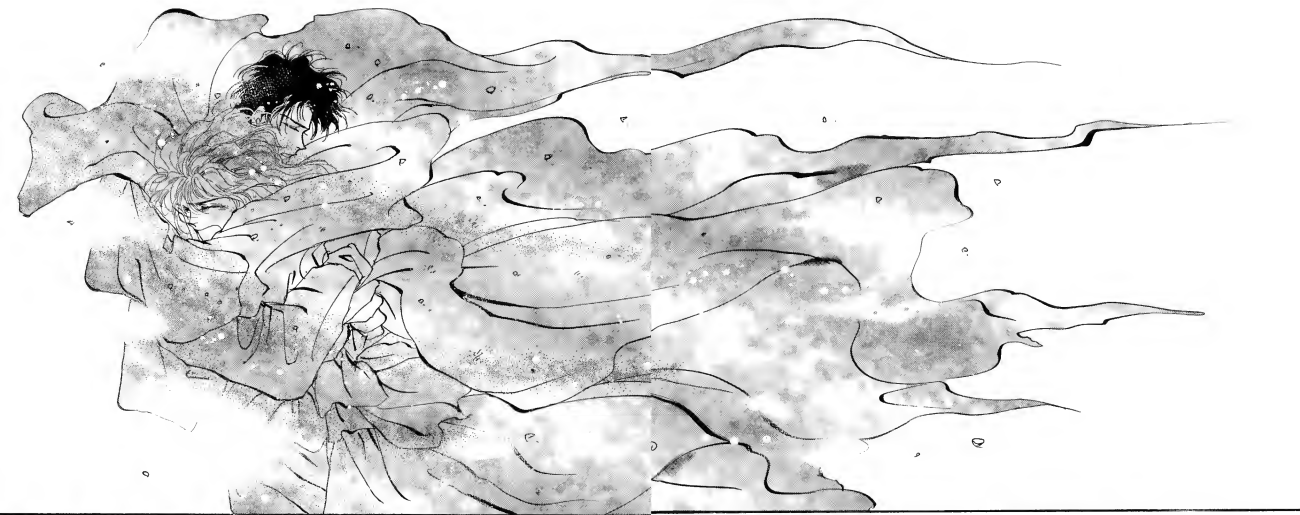
I'm doing a lot of illustrations!

HOW'S EVERYONE
DOING?
A LOT OF THINGS
ARE HAPPENING IN
THE WORLD...
TAKE CARE!

TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY











A black and white manga-style illustration showing two characters huddled together under a thick, crumpled blanket. The character in the foreground has long, dark, wavy hair and is looking down. The character behind them has spiky hair. The background is simple, suggesting an outdoor setting.

I
DON'T
CARE.

IF WE
STAY
HERE...

WE'LL
END UP
AS
PILLARS
OF SAND.



A close-up black and white illustration of a character's face. They have long, dark hair and are looking down with a somber expression. Their hand is visible near their face.

I
DON'T
CARE...



A black and white manga-style illustration showing two characters huddled together under a thick, crumpled blanket. The character in the foreground has long, dark, wavy hair and is looking down. The character behind them has spiky hair. The background is simple, suggesting an outdoor setting.

...NO.

THE
STORM
WILL
MAKE IT
COLD.



A close-up black and white illustration of a character's face. They have long, dark hair and are looking down with a somber expression. Their hand is visible near their face.

...SHURI.

I'M NOT
COLD AT
ALL...

MINE,
TOO.

THE
SAND'S
FILLING MY
MOUTH
WITH GRIT.



SHOO!
ALMOST
SQUISHED!









RIDICULOUS.

I'LL
SPIN
YOU
OUT.



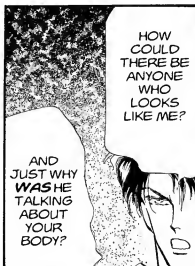
HOW DO
YOU
EXPECT
THEM TO
GET
BIGGER-

IF YOU KEEP
STRAPPING
THEM
DOWN LIKE
THAT?



SHURI,
IT...

...MADE
ME
THINK
OF YOU.



HOW
COULD
THERE BE
ANYONE
WHO
LOOKS
LIKE ME?

AND
JUST WHY
WAS HE
TALKING
ABOUT
YOUR
BODY?



TWRL

I'VE BEEN
COMPARED
TO A WASH-
BOARD.

SOME-
ONE
WHO
LOOKED
LIKE
YOU.

BY
WHOM?
HMM. YOU'VE
GOT SOME MEAT
ON YOU NOW.



BUT LET
ME DO
IT!

WELL...

HANDLING
THEM
MAKES
THEM
BIGGER.
SO I
HEAR.



WHAT!?

YOU
SHOULD'VE
KILLED
HIM!
OR LET ME!

STEERING
CLEAR!

...HE
FELT
ME
UP.

A BIT.







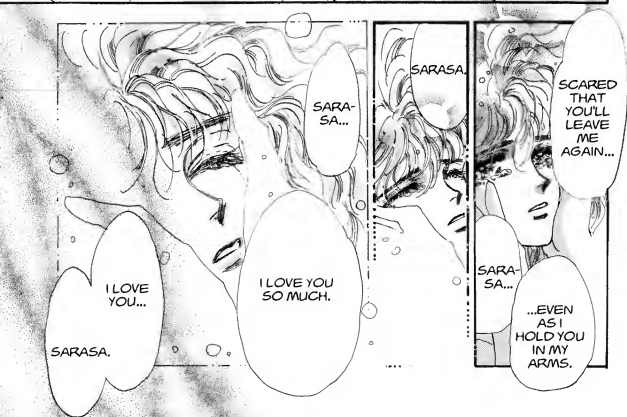
SARASA...



YOU'LL
DISAPPEAR
INTO THIN
AIR.

SCARED
THAT IF I
MAKE
LOVE TO
YOU...

I'M
SCARED,
TOO.



SARASA.

I LOVE
YOU...

I LOVE YOU
SO MUCH.

SARA-
SA...

SARASA.

SARA-
SA...

SCARED
THAT
YOU'LL
LEAVE
ME
AGAIN...

...EVEN
AS I
HOLD YOU
IN MY
ARMS.





...OH...

HEAVEN
IS
FALLING.





SHE WAS
SO DE-
PRESSED!

WHAT IF
SOME-
THING
HAPPENS
TO HER!?

SARASA!

SARASA!

...MY
MOTHER
IS
CALLING
ME.



CHACHA,
YOU CAN'T
GO OUT
IN THIS
SAND-
STORM

I'M
GOING
TO
LOOK
FOR
TATA-
RA--

IF I HAVE
TO SWIM
TO
SHORE!

...AND MY
BROTHER...



SARASA!

SARASA!

I LOVED...

MY NAME.



SPARKLING
LIGHTS.

I SEE...

EVEN IN
THE
STORM...

(EVEN
THOUGH
IT'S
NIGHT-
TIME...

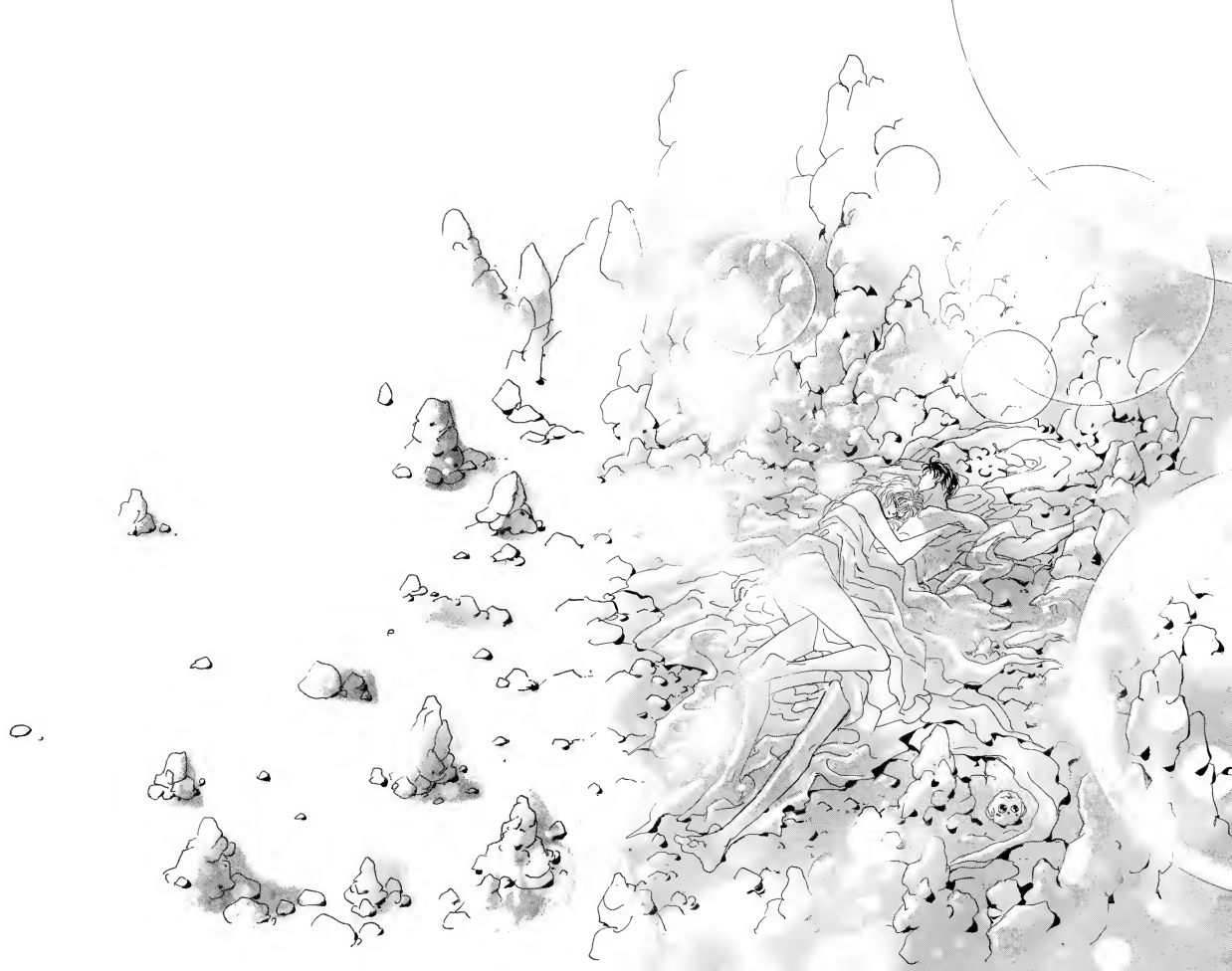
THERE
ARE
CRYSTALS...

AMONG
THE
SAND.

...EVERYTHING
IS SO
BEAUTIFUL...

...SO
BEAUTIFUL...

THE AIR
IS SO
CLEAR...







THESE
HANDS
HAVE EN-
DURED
SO
MUCH.

I LOVE
THEM.



...FELT
SO
WARM.

THE
ARMS
THAT
HELD
ME...

MY FINGERTIPS
FELT SO HOT.



MY
HEART'S
TREMBLING.



...FELT
SO
PRECIOUS
TO
ME.

MY
BODY...

I
COULD
CARE
SO
MUCH...

I
NEVER
KNEW...

FOR A
LITTLE
GIRL
NAMED
SARASA.

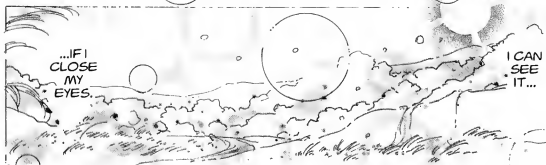


I FEEL LIKE
I'VE BEEN
REBORN.



LOVE
IS
STRANGE...

IT MAKES
ME WANT
TO CRY.



THESE
ARE
THE
THINGS...

...I
LONGED
FOR.

ALWAYS...

I WAS
STILL
SARASA.

BUT...

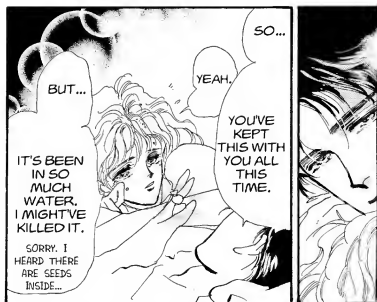
I WANTED
TO BE MY
BROTHER.

I WANTED
TO CARRY
ON HIS
DREAM.

I WAS
SARASA

...WAS
MY OWN.

THE
DREAM...



S
H
U
R
I

HUG

DON'T
LEAVE
ME.

DON'T
GO...

MMM...

YES.
BUT...

...YOU
SHOULD
SLEEP.

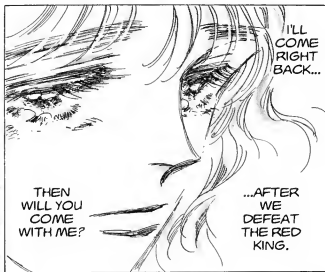
KIND
OF...

WHAT
DO
YOU
MEAN?

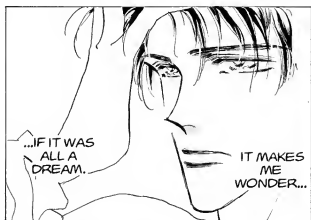
IS A RING
GOING TO
FALL OUT
OF THE
SKY?

I HAVE
TO GO.

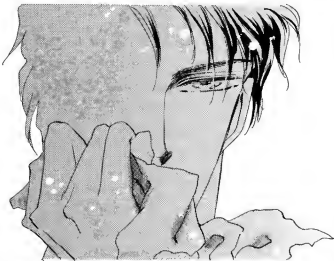
I HAVE
TO.







SARASA...





HUH?
CHA-
CHA?

TATA-
RA!

TATARA!?



I WISH
AGEHA
WERE
HERE.

HE'D BE
ABLE TO
SNAP
HER
BACK...



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
WE MADE
IT IN THIS
CRATE.

YOU'RE
RECK-
LESS,
CHACHA.

IT'S AL-
MOST
DAWN.



COME
ON.

IT'S TIME
TO
RESUME
THE
BATTLE.

I'M
SORRY.

I KNOW I
MADE YOU
WORRY.



AGE-
HA?

FEELS
WEIRD
SEEING
THEM
NOW...

NO
NEED
FOR
AGEHA
NOW!

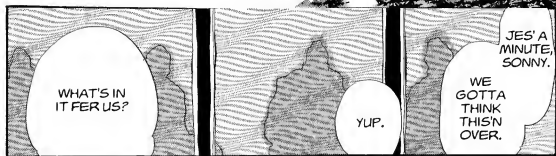
WHO
DID YOU SAY
WAS
DEPRESSED?

...UH..

RIGHT.



TOHOKU REGION - KAZUNO



THERE'S A LOT TO DO IN THIS LIFE.

WE DON'T LIVE FOREVER, YOU KNOW.

BUT WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?

WHY DO YOU NEED THIS ALLIANCE SO QUICKLY?

PEOPLE AROUND HERE TEND TO TAKE THEIR SWEET TIME ONCE THE SNOW COMES.

SORRY.

MASU-NAGA!

CAN YOU PUSH THOSE OLD FARTS INTO THEIR GRAVES?

NORTHERNERS ARE SO STUBBORN.

THANKS FOR COMING, RAIZO. THE TALKS AREN'T MOVING VERY QUICKLY.

TARO THE JOURNALIST.

BRR, IT'S COLD.

SORRY, NORTHERNERS!

TO SAVE TATARA'S ARMY FROM ANNIHILATION!

FORGING AN ALLIANCE WITH THE TOHOKU REGION TO FIGHT UKON IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY--

...AND IT'S
AS IF THE
STORM
HAD
NEVER
HAPPENED.

THE
SUN
RISES...



VERTICAL TAM-TAM TIME



BONUS: HAPPY DAYS

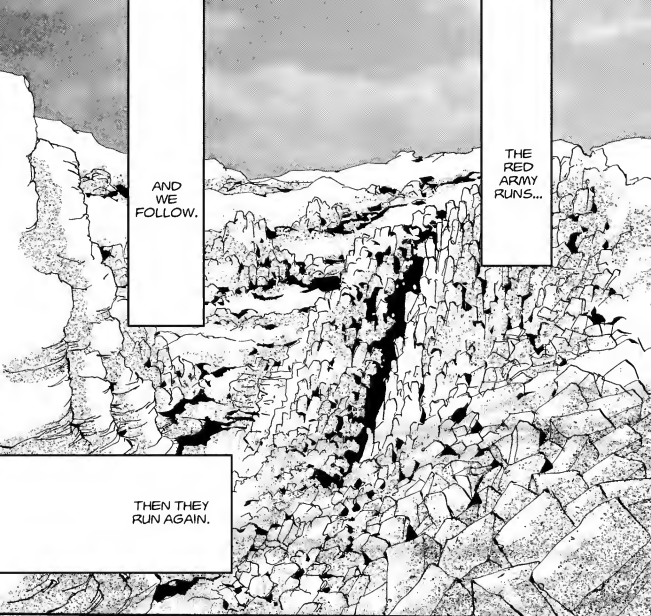


They thought it was fun, so they're doing it again...
If only they could always be like this...

TAMU.







AND
WE
FOLLOW.

THE
RED
ARMY
RUNS...

THEN THEY
RUN AGAIN.



YES,
BUT...

WHY DO THEY
ONLY GO
DOWN THE
NARROWEST
TRAILS?



I WANT
TO FINISH
THEM!

WHOA,
BOY!

THERE'S
NO END
TO THIS.

THEY DON'T
HAVE ENOUGH
TROOPS, SO
ALL THEY CAN
DO NOW IS
RUN!



IF THEY
WERE TO
ATTACK
US FROM
ANOTHER
ANGLE...

NARROW
TRAILS.

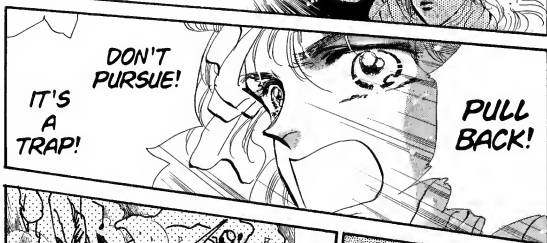
NO WAY TO
GATHER
OUR
TROOPS.

HARD FOR
US TO
MANEUVER.



THEY'RE
LURING
US!

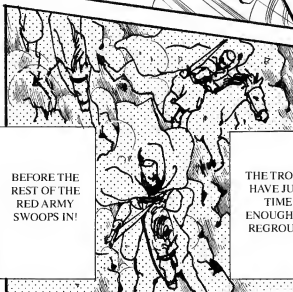
THEY'RE
NOT
RUNNING--



DON'T
PURSUE!

IT'S
A
TRAP!

PULL
BACK!



BEFORE THE
REST OF THE
RED ARMY
SWOOPS IN!

THE TROOPS
HAVE JUST
TIME
ENOUGH TO
REGROUP--

THUS,



...NOT A
MOMENT
TOO
SOON.



THE
COMMAND
COMES...

THEY
SAW
THROUGH
US.

DAMN.

...THE
RED
KING!?

IS
THAT...

HE'S
COMING!

TATARA'S
COMING!

KTA
KTA
KTA



DM

STRANGE
TO THINK...

I'VE NEVER
CROSSED
SWORDS
WITH HIM
BEFORE.

MY
HEART...

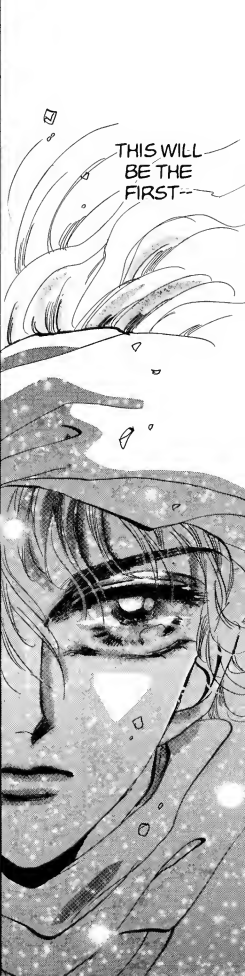
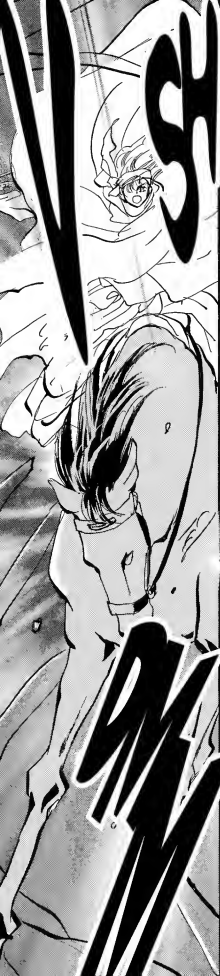
DM

...IS
CALM.

DM

DM
DM

I'LL
BE
ALL
RIGHT.



THIS WILL
BE THE
FIRST--

AND
LAST
TIME!



PREPARE
TODIE!

KTA

KTA

RED
KING!

YA
A
A

TATARA!

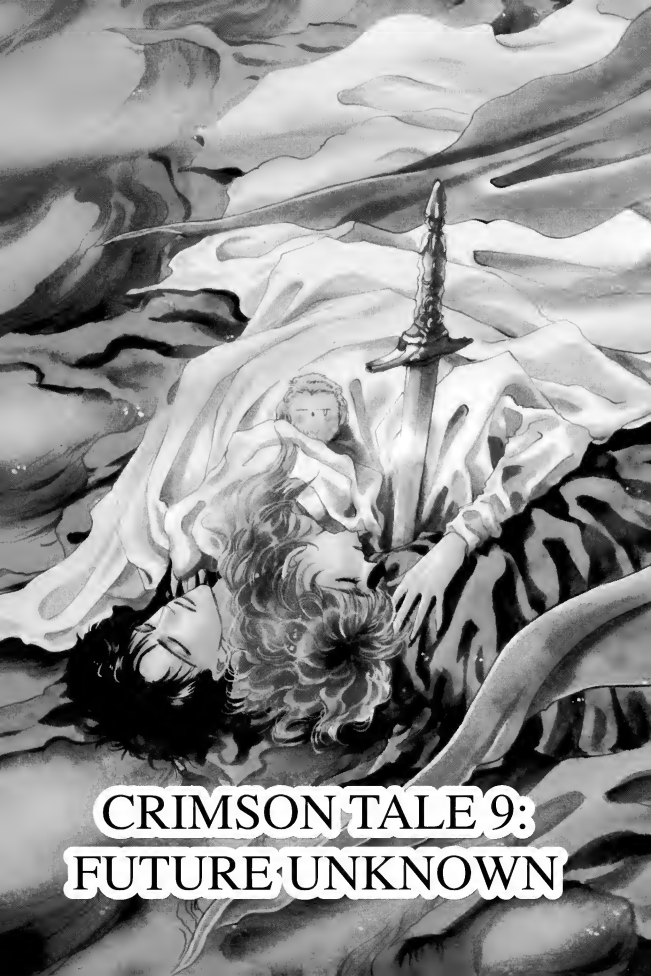
KING

IN
A
DREAM...

I BRING MY
SWORD DOWN ON
THE RED KING...

...AND HE
TURNS
AROUND.





**CRIMSON TALE 9:
FUTURE UNKNOWN**



ALWAYS...

I'VE RUN FROM THE PAINFUL THINGS.

WHEN HAVE I...

...EVER CONFRONTED THE TRUTH?



I MUST
HAVE
MADE A
MISTAKE.

SHURI...?

WHY...?

YES...
A
MISTAKE.

I
THOUGHT
THIS
WOULD
BE THE
RED
KING.



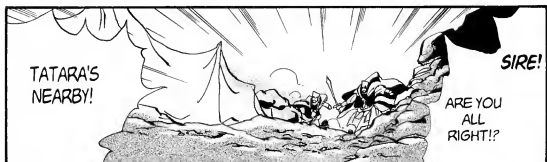
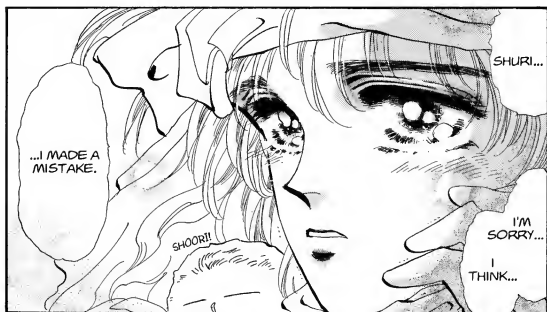
TATARA
WAS
COMING.

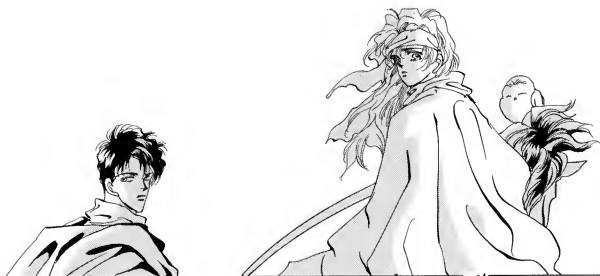
I
THOUGHT
I HEARD...
SARASA'S
VOICE.

SARASA...?

AND
THEN...

I
WAS ABOUT
TO TELL HER
TO STAY
BACK...
THAT IT WAS
DANGEROUS
BECAUSE...







...ARE
THEY
SAYING?

WHAT...



...IS
THE
RED
KING...
?

HYAH!

WHICH
ONE...



THAT'S
SHURI.

NO.



IT'S
SHURI.



I
DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

I...



...IS
TATARA!?

WHO...



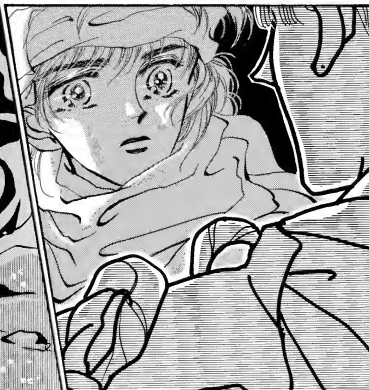
WHY ARE
YOU ON
THAT
SIDE?

SARASA....



SARASA!

COME TO
ME!





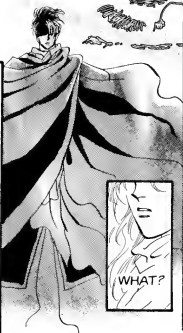
FIGHT?



WHAT'S WRONG?

THE
RED
KING IS
YOUR
ENEMY.

WON'T
YOU
FIGHT
HIM?



WHAT?



TATARA!

DECLARE
YOURSELF!

WE'RE
FACING
THE RED
KING AT
LAST!



WE'RE
BEHIND
YOU.

DON'T
WORRY,
TATARA.

THIS IS THE
MOMENT
YOU'VE
BEEN
WAITING
FOR!



TATARA!



KILL
THE
RED
KING!

TATARA!

TATARA!



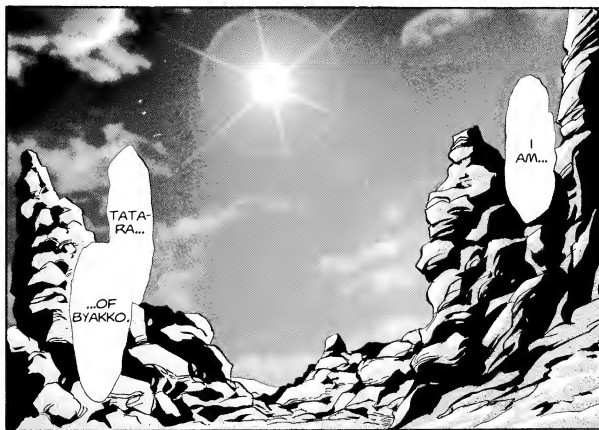
TATARA!

TATARA!



KING.

RED...



TATA-
RA...

...OF
BYAKKO.

I
AM...



AND...

MY
WHOLE
VILLAGE.

I
CAN'T
SEE
HIM.

MY
BROTHER...

YOU
KILLED
MY
FATHER...



THE
VILLAGE
OF
BYAKKO...?

VILLAGE...



I
HAVE
COME...

...THE
RED
KING.

CAN'T
SEE...



...MY
REVENGE.

...TO
TAKE...



TATARA!

TATARA!



I'VE SEEN
HIM MANY
TIMES
FROM
AFAR...

HE'S
RIGHT
THERE!

TSUKISHIRO!

IS HE
THERE!?
WHICH
ONE IS
TATARA!?



SAKA-
KI.

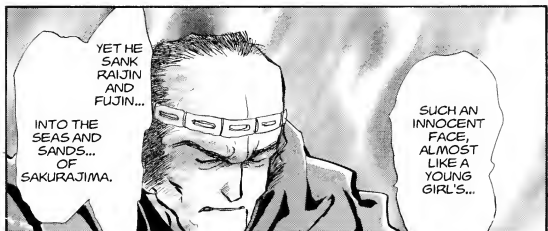
SIR?



DO YOU
KNOW...
WHICH
ONE IS
TATARA?



I'LL NEVER
FORGET
THAT
FACE.



YET HE
SANK
RAIJIN
AND
FUJIN...

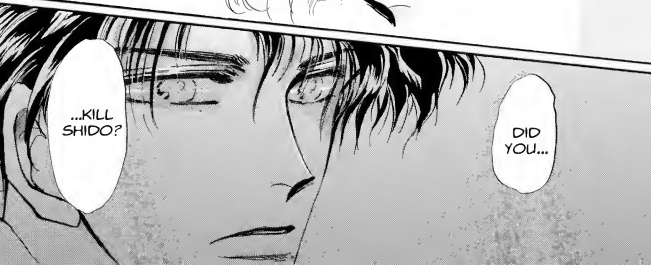
INTO THE
SEAS AND
SANDS...
OF
SAKURAJIMA.

SUCH AN
INNOCENT
FACE,
ALMOST
LIKE A
YOUNG
GIRL'S...



...WHO
DROVE
MASTER
SHIDO TO
DEATH!

HE IS THE
ONE,
WITHOUT A
DOUBT...



...KILL
SHIDO?

DID
YOU...



MY...

BEST
FRIEND...?

YOU...

KILLED MY
BELOVED
COUSIN...



THEY
ATTACKED
SAKURA-
JIMA.

HE KILLED
WOMEN
AND
CHILDREN...

SHIDO'S
ARMY...



WERE
YOU THE
ONE...?



YOU
WERE
THE
ONE...



GIVE
THE
ORDER!



TATA-
RA!



LET'S
DO THIS,
TATARA!

THE TIME
HAS
FINALLY
COME!



THEY
DON'T
HAVE
ENOUGH
MEN!

THIS IS
THE RED
KING'S
DOOM!



TATARA,
GIVE
THE
WORD!



...THE
RED
KING...

I
COM-
MAND
YOU...

...TO
KILL...

COULDN'T
HELP
IT...

--WHAT'S
HAPPEN-
ING!?

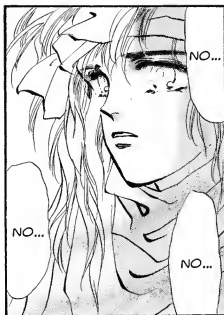
NAKIJIN!
WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?

SIRE,
GET
BACK!

WE'LL
FIGHT
FOR YOU!









FATHER!

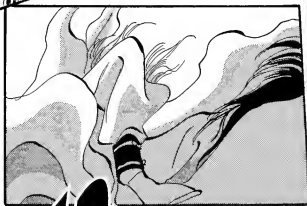
TATARA!

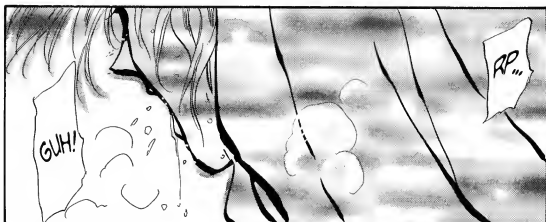


THE
RED
KING...

THAT
NIGHT,
DID I
SEE...

...HIS
FACE!?









THE FIRST
TIME I MET
SARASA...

...AFTER
TATARA
RAIDED IT.



...WAS AT A
HOT
SPRINGS BY
LIGHTHOUSE
FORT...

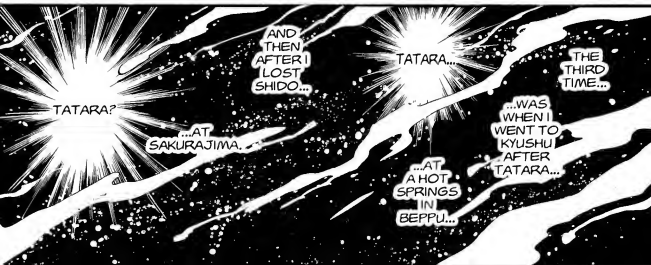


THE
SECOND
TIME...

SARASA SAID
SHE WAS ON
HER WAY TO
AVENGE HER
PARENTS.



I
WAS ON MY
WAY TO
ATTACK
TATARA AT
TSUYAMA
GORGE.



TATARA?

...AT
SAKURAJIMA...

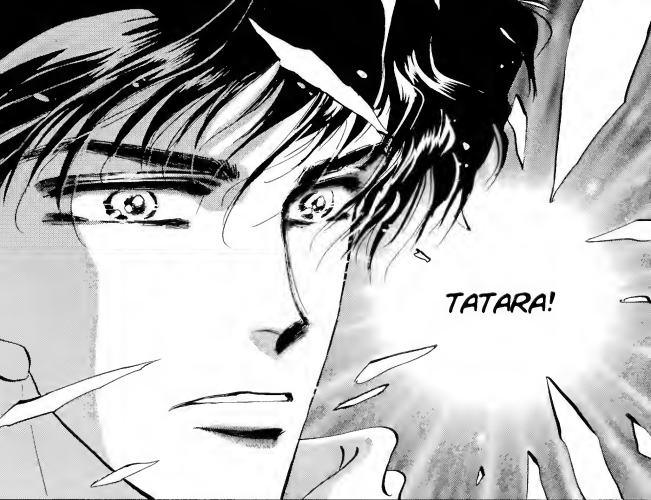
AND
THEN
AFTER I
LOST
SHIDO...

TATARA...

...AT
A HOT
SPRINGS
IN
BEPPU...

THE
THIRD
TIME...

...WAS
WHEN I
WENT TO
KYUSHU
AFTER
TATARA...



TATARA!

SARASA...
DOES THAT
MEAN...

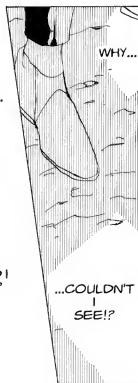
...THE
OBJECT OF
YOUR
VENGEANCE...



...THAT
YOU
WERE
THE
ONE!?

NO...

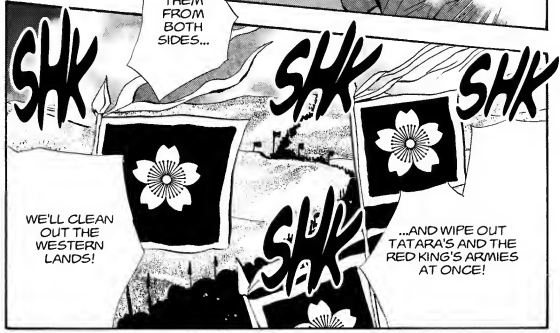
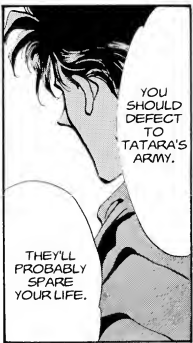
HOW
COULD I
HAVE?



WHY...

...COULDN'T
I
SEE!?







THE
KYOTO
REGIMENT--

AND THE
ONES
STATIONED IN
DAZAIFU!

KING
UKON'S
ARMY IS
COMING!

THE SCOUTS
SAY THEY
NUMBER
10,000!

WE
CAN'T
FIGHT
THEM
ALL!

THEY'LL
SINK
OUR
SHIPS!

WHAT
DO WE
DO?

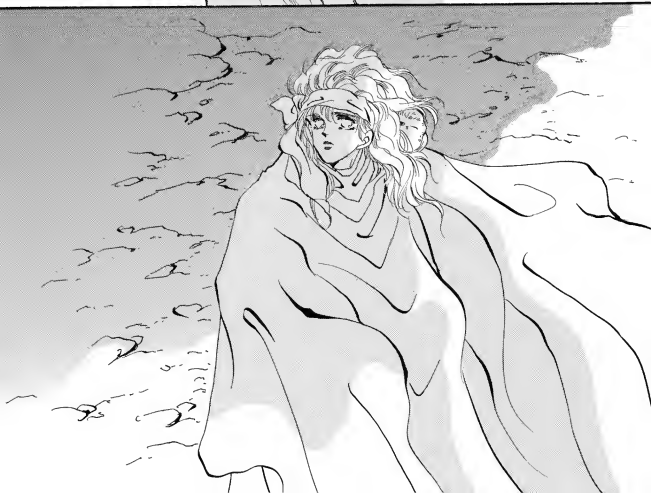
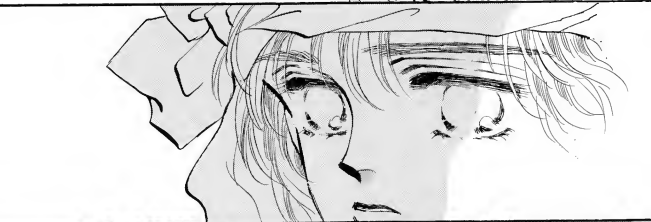
HOLD
YOUR
RANKS!

FIND THE
RED KING!

WITH
OUR
OWN
HANDS!

LET'S AT
LEAST KILL
THE RED
KING--









IT...
HURTS...



NOT
THERE.



NOT
THERE.



FIND
THE
RED
KING!



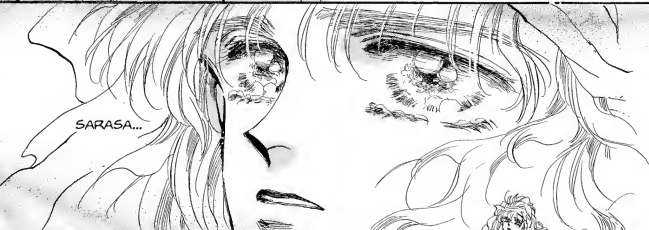
HOW TO
KILL
MYSELF!?

HOW AM I
SUPPOSED
TO KNOW--





SARASA...



SARASA...



WHAT ARE
YOU
THINKING
NOW...?

I
WONDER...

...SARASA...



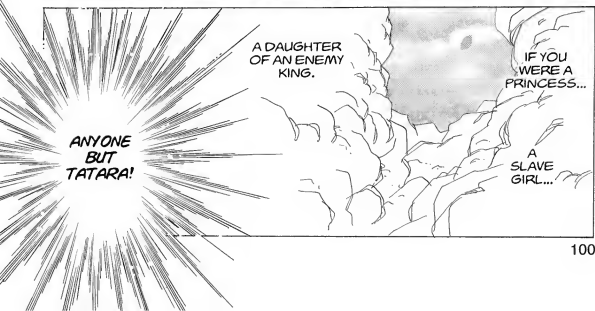
I CAN
ONLY
THINK
OF
YOU.

EVEN
IN THIS
MOMENT...



...WHO
YOU
REALLY
WERE.

I
DIDN'T
CARE...



ANYONE
BUT
TATARA!

A DAUGHTER
OF AN ENEMY
KING.

IF YOU
WERE A
PRINCESS...

A
SLAVE
GIRL...



WOULDN'T
HAVE
GIVEN A
DAMN~

EVEN IF
YOU
WERE MY
SISTER!

GUACHU!



SHK

WE
CAN'T
WIN.

NOW
WHAT?.

TATARA!

GET US
MORE
LIGHT!

WE HAVE
TO FIGHT
UKON'S
ARMY!

HERE
THEY
COME!

CLEANING
UP
MOMONOI'S
MESS ISN'T
VERY
EXCITING...

LET'S
THINK OF
THIS AS A
PICNIC.

BUT
TATARA
WILL BE A
PUSHOVER.

SIR!

THEY'RE
COMING
CLOSER!
IT'S A
WHOLE
FLEET!

OH.

THERE
ARE
SO MANY
OF THEM.

BUT...

NO...

NOT
ALLIES.

NEW
ALLIES?

THERE ARE
SHIPS IN THE
INLAND SEA!

LORD
SAKU-
RADA!

A MES-
SENGER
FROM
KING
UKON!

HE
WANTS US
TO BRING
THE
TROOP'S
BACK
IMME-
DIATELY!

KUMANO?
THE IMPLU-
DENCE.

SIR!

BRING
THEM
BACK!?

WHAT?!

AFTER WE CAME
THIS FAR?!

HAVE
ANNOUNCED
A TRIPLE
ALLIANCE!

AND
KAZUNO IN
TOHOKU--

THE
INDE-
PENDENT
ARMY OF
KANTO--

KING UKON
HAS JUST
LEARNED
THAT
TATARA'S
ARMY--

THE
OLD
FOOL.

!?

ALL
RIGHT.

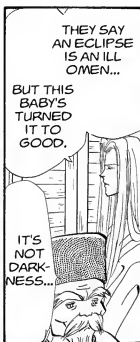
YES, SIR!
THE KING
WANTS US
TO
CENTRAL-
IZE THE
DEFENSES.

SO
THEY
DID
IT!

THOSE
ARE...

KUMANO
SHIPS!

IT'S THE
KUMANO
NAVY!





BUT NO ONE KNOWS WHAT THE FUTURE WILL BRING...



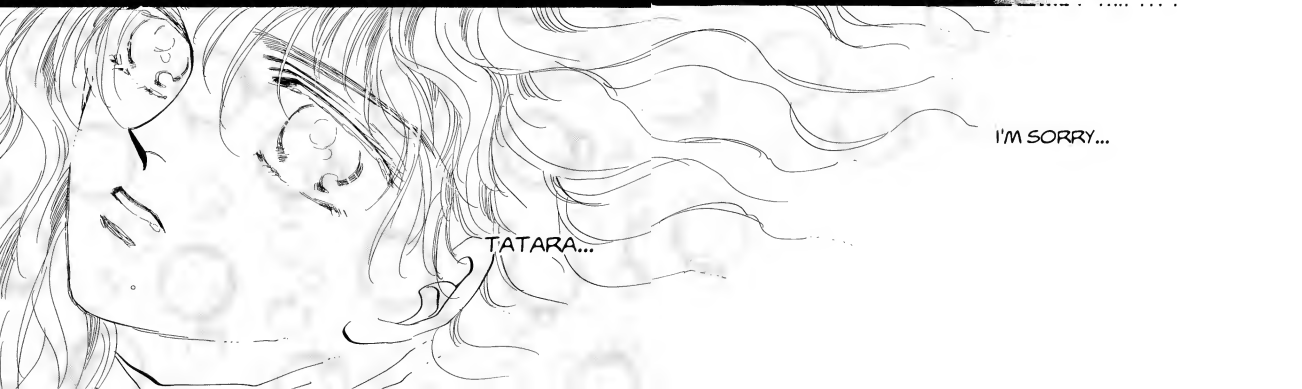
THERE'LL
BE A
RING...



...MY
GIFT
TO
YOU.



TODAY,
LOOK UP
AT THE
SKY....



TATARA...

I'M SORRY...



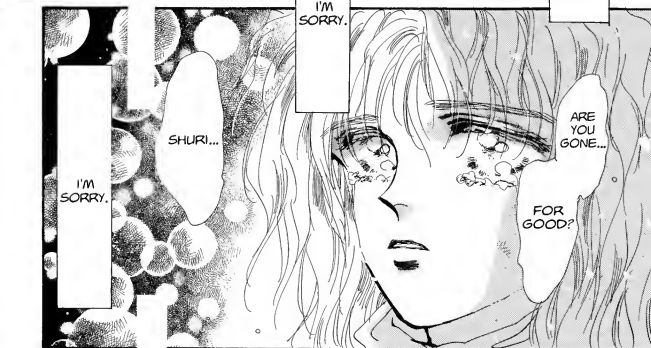
SHURI...

WHERE
ARE
YOU...?

PSH

I'M
SORRY.

I'M
SORRY.



I'M
SORRY.

SHURI...

ARE
YOU
GONE...

FOR
GOOD?



FOREVER.

THE
SHURI I
KNEW...

...IS
GONE.



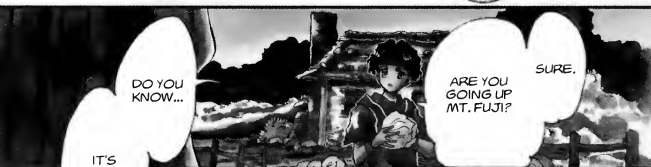
SHURI....?



AMBER TALE 1: DEEP IN SLUMBER



HEY,
BOY,
SELL ME
SOME
VEGE-
TABLES?



DO YOU
KNOW...

SURE.
ARE YOU
GOING UP
MT. FUJI?

IT'S
DANGER-
OUS UP
THERE?





...BUT
WHEN THE
VOLCANO
ERUPTED,

THE TREES
WERE
SWALLOWED
BY LAVA AND
ASH.

THIS PLACE
IS FAMOUS
FOR ITS
PRIMEVAL
FOREST.

ONCE IT
COVERED AN
EVEN WIDER
AREA...

STILL,
EVEN
NOW...

IT'S AWFULLY
EASY TO GET
LOST ONCE
YOU STEP
INSIDE.



DO
YOU?

DO YOU
KNOW WHY I
BROUGHT
YOU HERE?

TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

Let's see... So, the manga anthology where BASARA runs announced "end of part 1" at the end of the previous episode. (The people reading only the graphic novel can simply ignore this.)% It was labeled with the subtitle "Soaring" starting this episode. I got letters asking, "So what was it called before?"

I went ahead and named it
"Quickening."

THERE ARE SO
MANY BONUSES
FOR READING
THE ANTHOLOGY!

It has to do
with the way
the anthology is
organized, and there's no such distinction in
the graphic novels. (Although the content was
influenced a bit.)% So people who've been

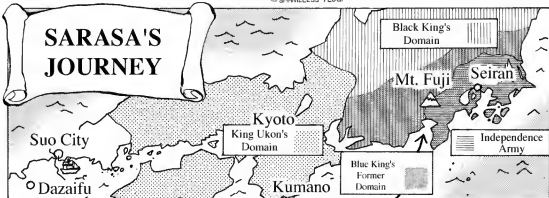
IT TOOK 15 VOLUMES ^{0.0}
TO FINISH "PART 1"!

following the anthology
can feel kind of
lucky, but there's
no big
difference.

TAMU

~ SHAMELESS PLUG ~

SARASA'S JOURNEY





CAN
YOU
TELL
ME?

...OR
DOES
NOTHING
MATTER
TO YOU
ANY-
MORE?

...AN
INSECT
SUSPENDED
IN
AMBER.

CHACHA
CALLED
HER...



WHAT?

TATARA
AND
THE
RED
KING!?



I FOUND
HER
HUDDLED
LIKE A
CHILD.



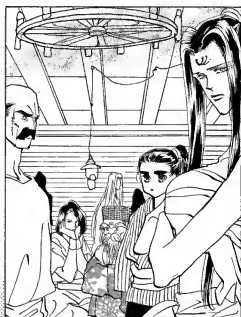
WHEN I
RETURNED
FROM
TOHOKU...



AT LEAST,
SO IT
LOOKED TO
ME.

THEY
WERE
IN
LOVE.

SHE SAID
THEY
WERE
ENGAGED.



WH...

WHAT
THE
HELL?

THE
RED
KING!?



SHE'S
FOUGHT
SO HARD,
SO LONG...

HE WAS
HER
ENEMY!

TO
BRING
DOWN
THE RED
KING.

YEAH.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.

...HER
FAMILY

...HER
VILLAGE!

IN
OKINAWA...

...UNAWARE
OF WHO THE
OTHER
WAS.

BUT THEY
MET...

THEY
SEEMED
SO
HAPPY...

THEY
FELL IN
LOVE...

...NEVER
KNOWING.



DON'T
GIVE ME
ANY
MORE
DETAILS!



YUCK!



...SHE
STARTED
POURING
MENSTRUAL
BLOOD.

LIKE HER
BODY WAS
TRYING TO
PURGE
EVERYTHING
INSIDE IT.

AND...
DON'T
TELL
THE
MEN,
BUT...



THEY MUST
HAVE
LEARNED
THE TRUTH IN
THIS LAST
BATTLE.

SHE
COULDN'T
STOP
PUKING.



DIDN'T YOU
SEE THIS
COMING!?

BAM

WHAT
WERE YOU
DOING!?

VSH

NAG!



LOOK
AT THE
LOT OF
YOU!

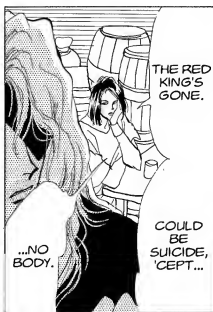
YOU'RE
ALL
TATARA'S
FRIENDS
AND
ALLIES--



THAT PLAYBOY!?

YOU
THINK
HE'D
KILL
HIM-
SELF
OVER A
WOMAN
!?

DO YOU
KNOW
WHAT
MAKES ME
SICK!?



THE RED
KING'S
GONE.

...NO
BODY.

COULD
BE
SUICIDE,
'CEPT...



BUT **NONE**
OF YOU
MATTER
MORE TO
HER THAN
THE RED
KING!



DON'T
ROLL
OVER!

Slam



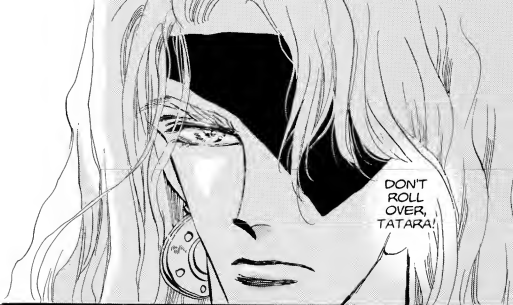
NO NEED TO
GET MAD
ABOUT IT.

THAT IN-
CLUDES
YOU,
TOO.

I
KNOW!



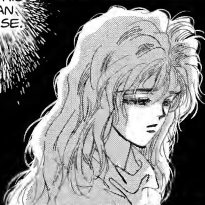
WSH



DON'T
ROLL
OVER,
TATARA!



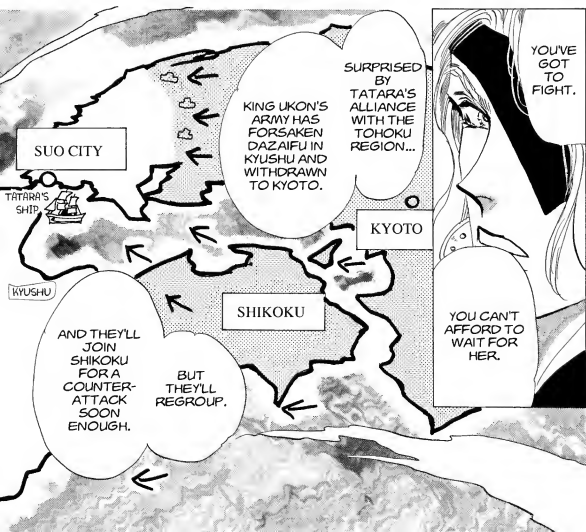
DON'T
USE THIS
AS AN
EXCUSE.



IF
EXCUSES
GAVE
ANYONE
PEACE OF
MIND...

...NO ONE
WOULD
EVER
SUFFER.







I THOUGHT
THIS WOULD
BE THE ONLY
PLACE...

NAGI.

...THE
MOUNTAIN...?

I'M
TAKING
YATO,
TOO.

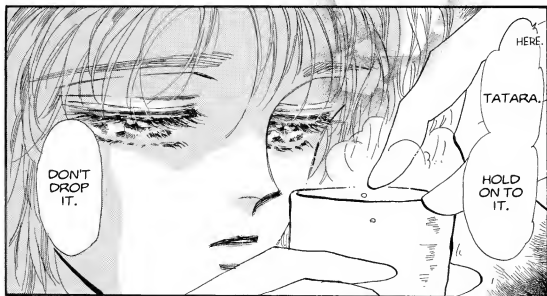
NO POINT
KEEPING A
HORSE
THAT ONLY
LETS
TATARA
RIDE HIM.

...I COULD
SNAP
TATARA
BACK TO
HER
SENSES.

I'LL
NEVER...

LISTEN TO
YOUR
PROPHECIES
AGAIN.

TO
FUJI!



DON'T
DROP
IT.

HERE.

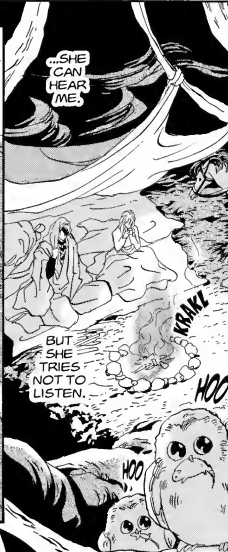
TATARA.

HOLD
ON TO
IT.



SHE
WON'T
LOOK AT
THE
MOON...

...OR
THE
STARS
IN THE
SKY.



...SHE
CAN
HEAR
ME.

BUT
SHE
TRIES
NOT TO
LISTEN.

KRAKZ

HOO

HOO



SO
SOME-
WHERE
IN
THERE...



I NEVER
KNEW YOU
WERE
CAPABLE
OF THIS.

SHE
DOESN'T
CRY OR
RANT.



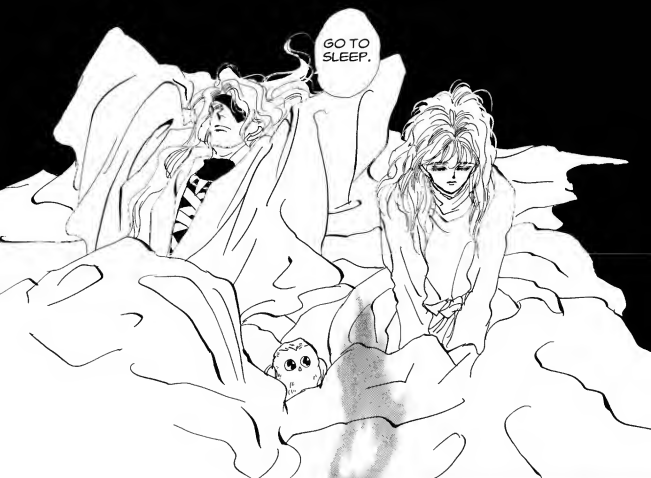
...THAT
GOOD?

WAS
HE...



WHY NOT
JUST
TAKE ME
INSTEAD?



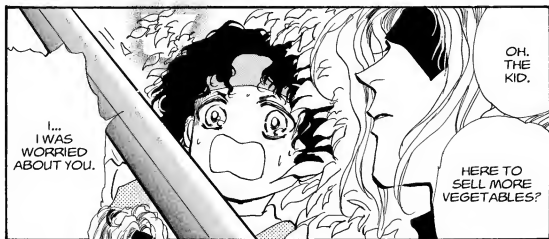




WATER'S
TOO
COLD.

YES!

WHAT
A
HAUL.



I...
I WAS
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU.

OH.
THE
KID.

HERE TO
SELL MORE
VEGETABLES?



SOME
VILLAGES
HAVE
BEEN
RAIDED.

THEY USED
TO BE WITH
THE BLUE
ARMY.

HEE
HEE

THERE
ARE
BANDITS
AROUND
HERE.



I'M
NOT TATA-
RA...
BUT YOU
CAN
GO
ASK
HER.

REALLY!?
WILL YOU
GET RID OF
THEM!?

PLEASE?



IS
THAT
SO?

THAT'S
WHAT I
HEAR.

EVERY-
ONE
SAYS
SO.



WELL...

TATARA'S
SUPPOSED
TO DRIVE OFF
THE
BANDITS...

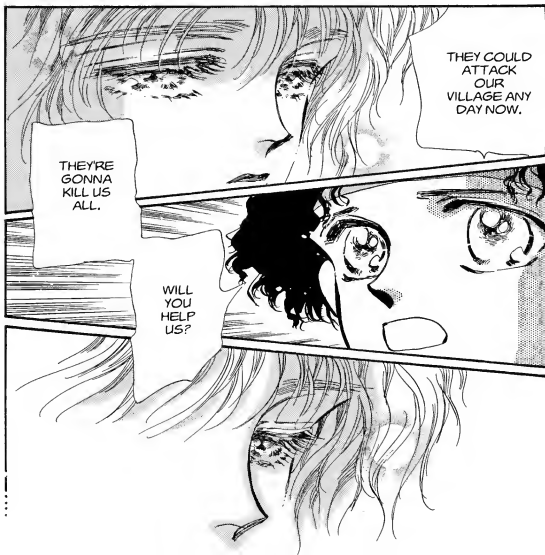


YOU
HAVE A
NICE
SWORD.

YOU
LOOK
TOUGH.

ARE
YOU
TATA-
RA?

AM
I
WHO?



THEY COULD
ATTACK
OUR
VILLAGE ANY
DAY NOW.

THEY'RE
GONNA
KILL US
ALL.

WILL
YOU
HELP
US?



WOULD
SHE BE
HAPPIER
THIS WAY?

SOMETIMES
I
WONDER...

NO TERROR.

NO KILLING.

NO WAR.

SSHH

TATARA!

WOULD
SHE!?

WATCHING
THE
SWELLS
OF
HISTORY
FROM THE
SHORE?

WOULD
SHE BE
HAPPIER...

...LIVING
LIKE ANY
OTHER
GIRL?



TATARA!?

IS THAT
WHAT
YOU
WANT?



THROW
IT
AWAY!?

WILL
YOU
LET
ME--



ANOTHER
PIECE OF
TRASH!?

IS THIS
JUST--



THIS IS
YOUR
BYAKKO
SWORD!

IF
YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
TO
FIGHT--

YOU
WON'T
NEED IT
ANY-
MORE,
WILL
YOU!?

KRAK

DO YOU
WANT ME TO
THROW
THEM AWAY!?

YOUR
BROTHER
ENTRUSTED
YOU WITH
HIS
VISION.

KSH

WITH HIS
PASSION.

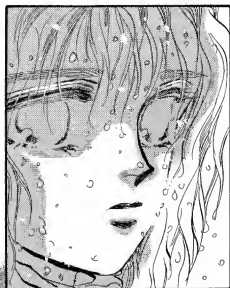
RRRMBZ
KRAK

TATARA!

RRRMM

KRAK

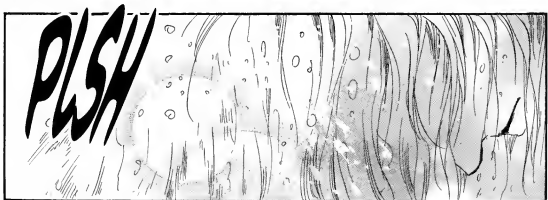
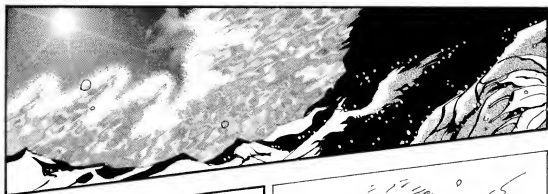
KSH

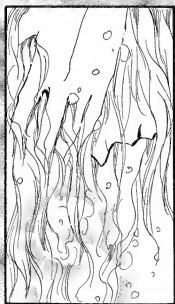


AS
YOU
WISH.



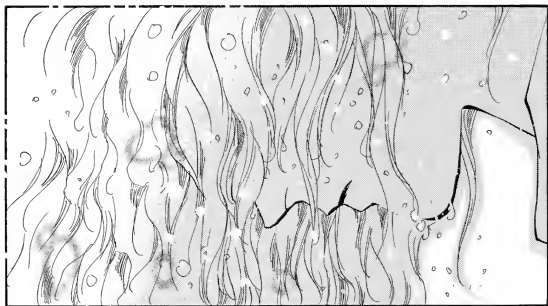
FINE,
THEN.





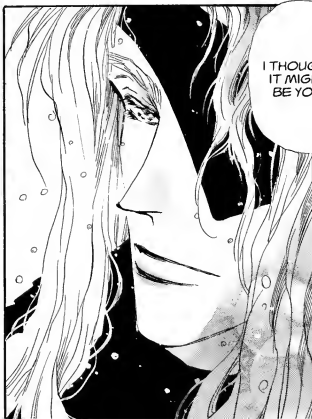
I SOUGHT A
WOMAN I COULD
GIVE MY LIFE TO.

FOR A
LONG
TIME...



BUT...

I WAS
WRONG.



I THOUGHT
IT MIGHT
BE YOU.



LET
YOUR-
SELF
REST.

...

I'M
DONE.

TIME
TO
MOVE
ON.

I'VE SAID
SOME
HARSH
THINGS
TO YOU.

I
WON'T
ANYMORE.

YOU'VE
HAD
ENOUGH.

IF THIS IS
THE
ONLY
WAY TO
FIND
PEACE...

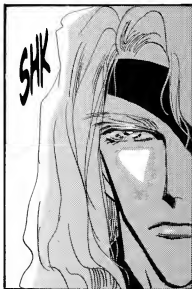




I WON'T
WASTE ANY
MORE TIME.



I'M
LEAVING.



SHK



I...

HOPE
LIFE
TREATS
YOU
GENTLY.



SHK

SHK



SHK

SHK

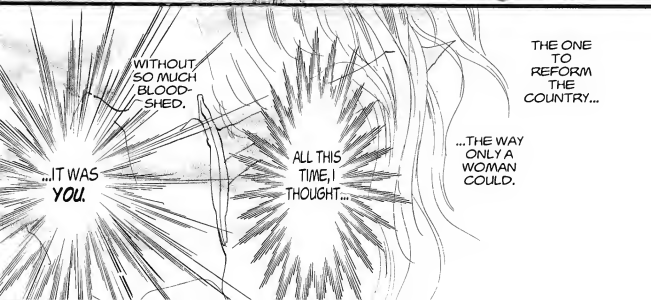
SHK



THE
ONE
WHO
COULD
DO IT.

SHK

I
REALLY
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE...
THE
ONE.



WITHOUT
SO MUCH
BLOOD-
SHED.

THE ONE
TO
REFORM
THE
COUNTRY...

...IT WAS
YOU.

ALL THIS
TIME, I
THOUGHT...

...THE WAY
ONLY A
WOMAN
COULD.



CHILD
OF
DESTINY!

I
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE
THE
TRUE...



ONLY
TATARA!

I'LL
NEVER
CALL YOU
"SARASA."



I WANTED TO BE
CHOSEN, USED
AND DISCARDED...
BURIED BY
HISTORY.

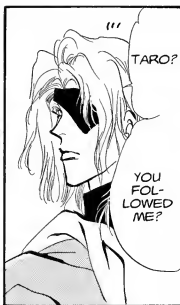
I
WANTED
TO LIVE
MY LIFE
IN
ACTION...

...TO BURN
MYSELF OUT
GLORIOUSLY,
NOT WAITING
ON HISTORY'S
WHIMS.

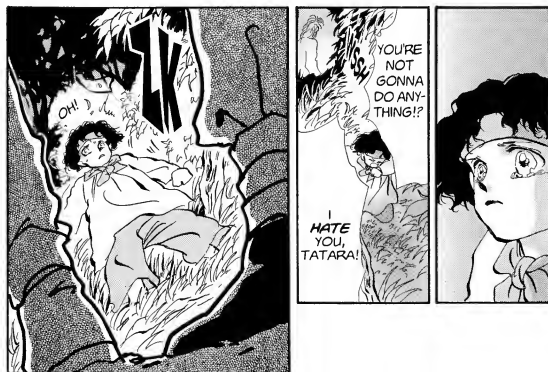
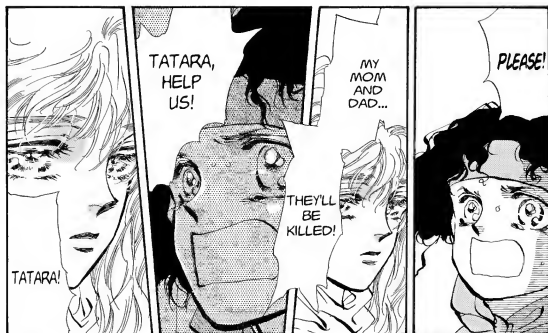
AND I
WANTED
TO LIVE IT
WITH
YOU!

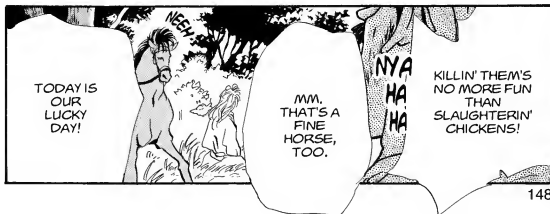


WHY'D
YOU CUT
YOUR
HAIR?













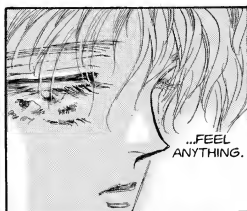


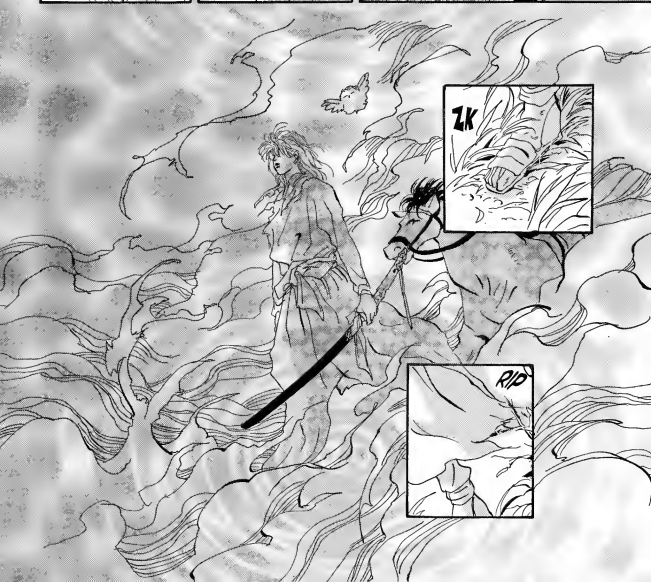
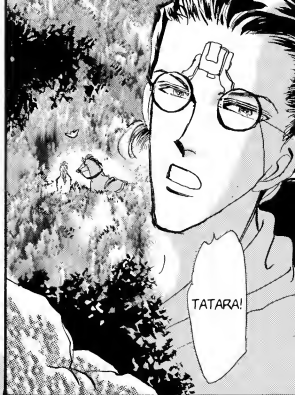


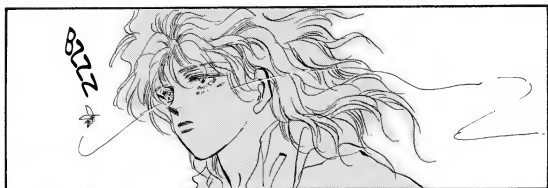
...HAPPENED
HERE?

...GOD'S
NAME...











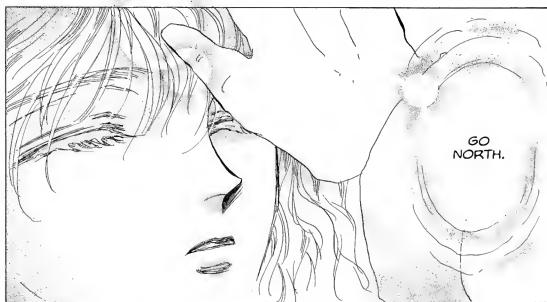
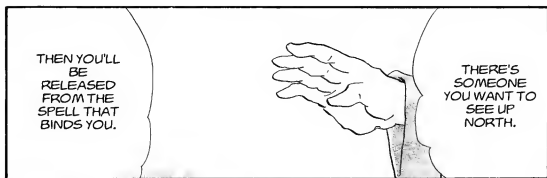
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

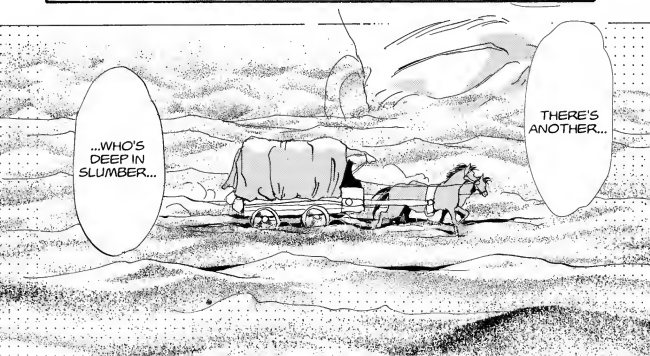


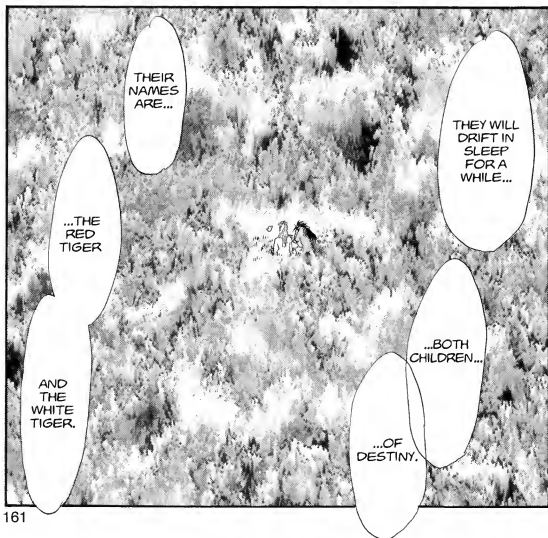
YOU
SHOULD BE
GOING
NORTH,
SHOULDN'T
YOU?

THERE'S
NOTHING
UP THERE.

NO POINT
IN
CLIMBING
FURTHER.









AMBER TALE 2:
THE LAST CHRYSANTHEMUM



WHY
DID
YOU
SAVE
HIM?

WHO
KNOWS?

I'VE
ALWAYS
ASSUMED...

THAT YOU
HATED THE
RED KING.

LORD
ASAGI.



TINY TAM-TAM TIME (3)

I got a lot of letters saying,
"Is Shuri really dead?"
"Don't kill him!"

Aren't you happy they
care about you?

PFF! YOU THINK
I'D LIKE THIS?

SOME THOUGHT
SARASA WAS PREGNANT
AND WILL HAVE TO
RAISE THE BABY BY
HERSELF.

But someone also
wrote, "He can't
possibly be alive after
he stabbed himself all
those times!"

Sorry! TAMU

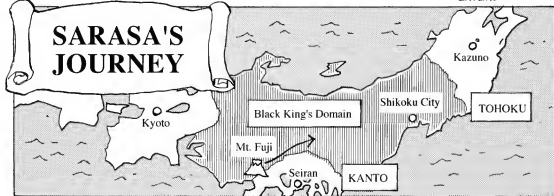
LATER! —

UM...

YOU
THOUGHT HE
DIED?

People are putting
serious thought into
this story! ♥

SARASA'S JOURNEY





SHURI
SHOULDN'T
DIE LIKE
THAT.

I...

SUPPOSE
I JUST
DIDN'T
LIKE THIS
ENDING.

IT'S
NOT
FITTING.

NOW
THEN...

YOU'RE
EXCUSED.

I GUESS
I'LL GIVE
HIM SOME
WATER,
TOO.

GULP

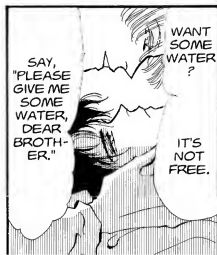
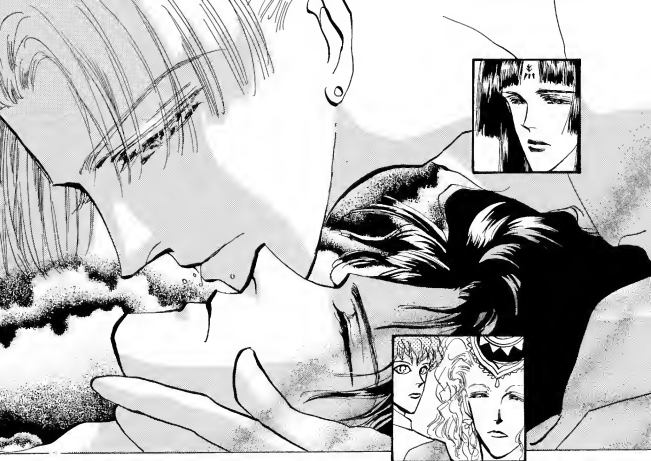
I FEEL LIKE
ALL I DO IS
FIRST AID...

I'M
SORRY I
WAS
LINGER-
ING...

WHEN
I WAS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
SUS-
PENDED.

RATTLE

GOOD
THING
MURATAKE
WAS
THERE.



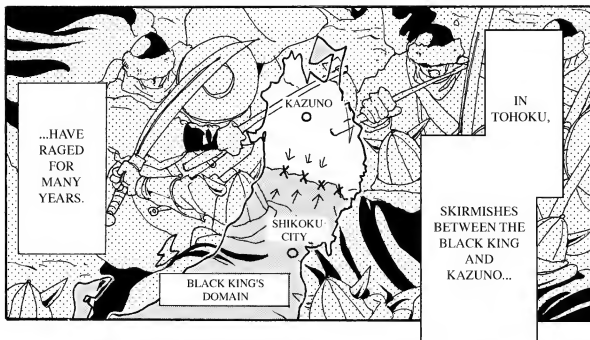
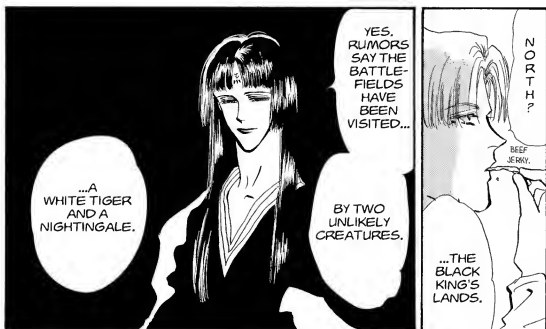
WANT
SOME
WATER
?

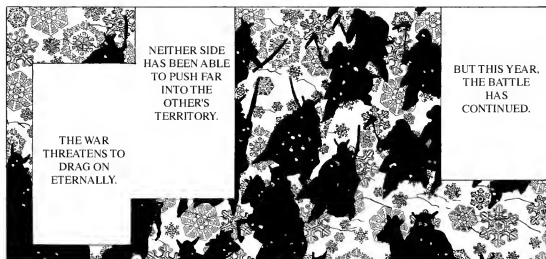
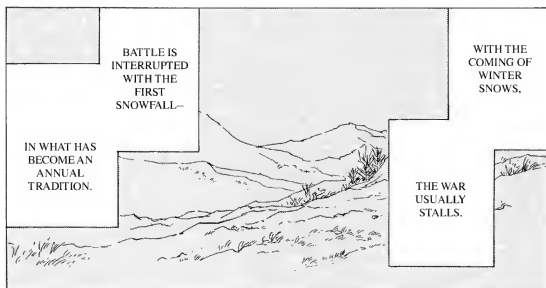
IT'S
NOT
FREE.













A WHITE
TIGER HAS
BEGUN
APPEARING
REPEATEDLY
ON THE
BATTLEFIELD.

IT SEEMS
TO CHOOSE
KAZUNO'S
SIDE.

IT IS ALSO
SAID THAT A
NIGHTINGALE
HAUNTS THE
LAND.

KAZUNO IS
FAMOUS
FOR ITS
LEGENDS...

THIS
REPORTER
WOULD
VERY
MUCH
LIKE TO
CATCH A
GLIMPSE.

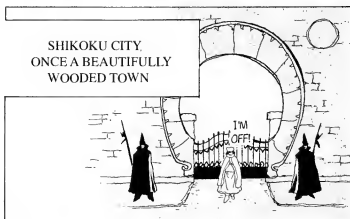
QUITE A
BEAUTY,
SAY THE
RUMORS.

SO IT IS EASY FOR
THE BLACK ARMY
TO BELIEVE THAT
BYAKKO HAS
COME TO ITS
OPPONENT'S AID.

WOW!

FANTASTIC!

SHIMON CITY NEWS



NOW THE BLACK KING'S
DOMAIN

AOBA

HELLO,
SIR!

GOOD
DAY!

OH,
KASANE.

I
ALMOST
DIDN'T
RECOG-
NIZE
YOU.

I'M
ON AN
ERRAND
TODAY.

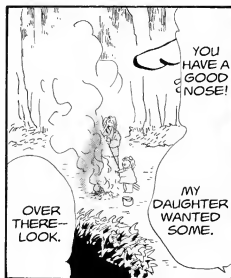
PART OF LADY
PURPLE'S
ORNAMENTAL
SWORD
BROKE.

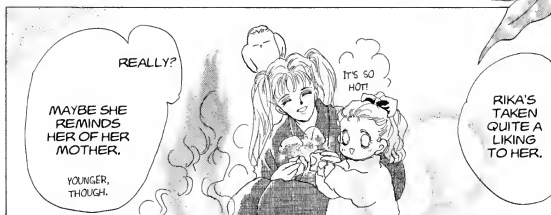
DO I LOOK
ELEGANT?

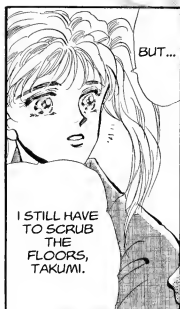
REALLY?

COURT
COSTUME
SUITS
YOU.

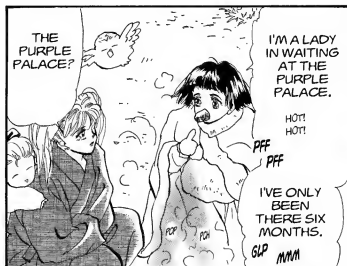
SHE
WANTS
YOU TO
FIX IT.















I
HAVEN'T...

CAN YOU
TURN THE
LIGHTS ON
IN THE
MAIN
BUILDING?

I'M
GLAD.

SURE.

...HAD
MANY
CHANCES
BEFORE.



SPIRITED
GIRL, ISN'T
SHE?

IT
IS.

I BET IT'S FUN
TO TALK TO A
GIRL YOUR
AGE FOR A
CHANGE.

THE PRIEST IS BUDDHIST, BUT...

MORE OR
LESS.



TAKUMI,
PUT
MORE
WEIGHT
INTO IT!

HE'S ALSO
THE
PERSONAL
SWORD
SMITH
TO THE
BLACK
KING.

SHUT
UP!

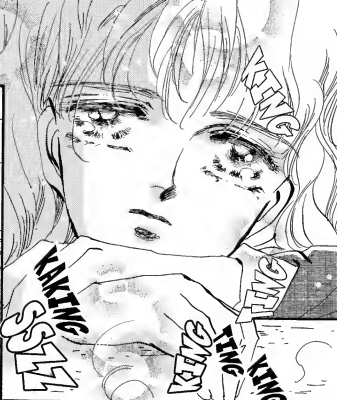
LIKE
THIS?!

OOF!

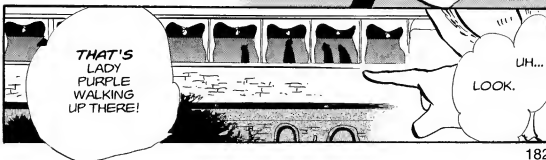
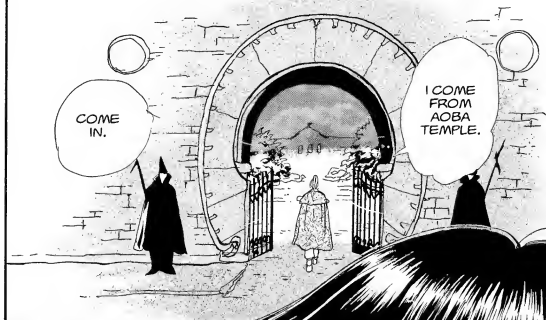
HE ALSO
HAS A
HERETICAL
HOBBY.

WEIRD...

THIS ISN'T
A SHRINE!









THE
BLACK
KING.
ELDEST
SON OF
KING
UKON...

...AND HIS WIFE.



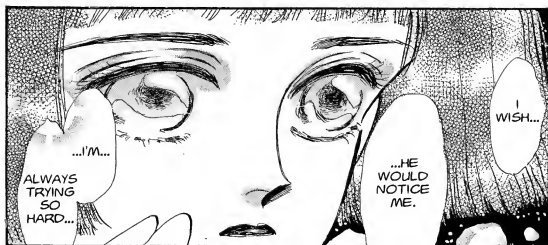
HEE HEE

SOME
SAY...

THAT'S
SHE'S GOT
HIM
WRAPPED
AROUND
HER LITTLE
FINGER.

SHE'S
MORE
POWER-
FUL THAN
THE
BLACK
KING.







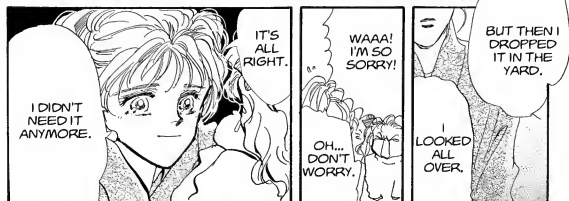
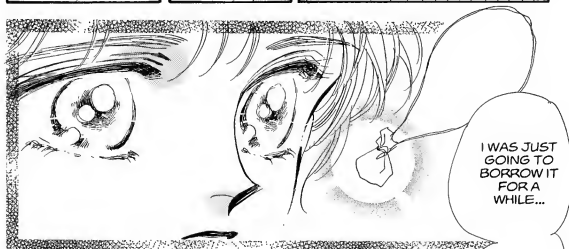
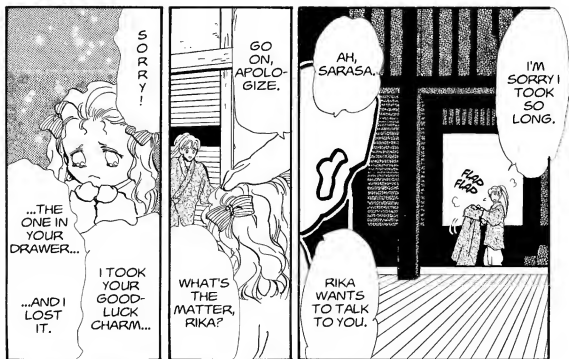


...THE
BLACK
KING...

...AND THE
WOMAN
WHO
HOLDS
THE
POWER...

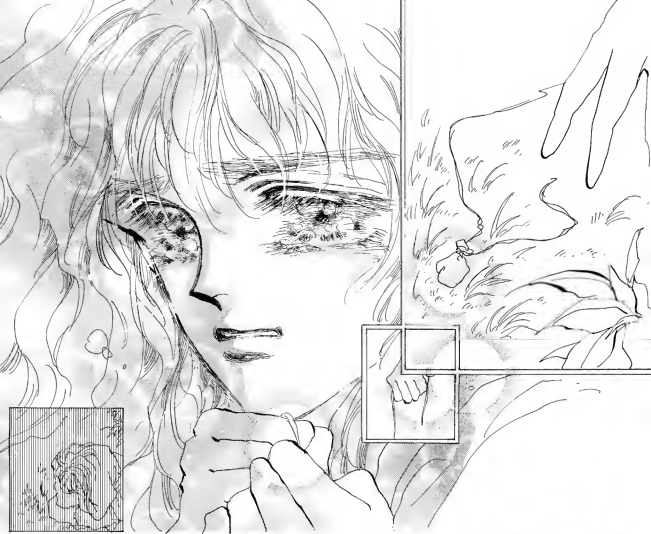
I'M
HERE...

...TO BRING
BOTH OF YOU
DOWN.













...I'M SORRY.

THANK YOU...



SARA-SA... I'M SORRY.



RUNNING ABOUT AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?



I'D LIKE
TO STAY
HERE.

NO.

YOU CAN BREAK
FOR LUNCH
WHEN YOU'RE
DONE
SHOVELING THE
SNOW!

KASANE!



ONE
OF
THE
LAST
MUMS.

HOW
DOES IT
SURVIVE
IN THE
SNOW?



SURE!

OOP!

I'M GOING
TO HAVE
FISHCAKES
WITH
SARASA!



I'LL PICK IT
FOR LADY
PURPLE'S
CHAMBERS...

KIKUNE...





Recommendations

If you enjoyed this volume of *Basara*, then here are some more manga you might be interested in:

Chicago

by Yumi Tamura: From the creator of *Basara* comes an action-packed short series set in the near future. Capable Rei and her seasoned partner Uozumi are survivors. After being deployed to a half-finished manmade island to search for earthquake victims, their military rescue squad is bombed. Discovering the mysterious forces behind the bombing becomes their personal goal as they join a private rescue force that gathers secretly in a Shinjuku bar called "Chicago."



© 2001 Yumi TAMURA/
Shogakukan Inc.

Banana Fish

by Akimi Yoshida: When a man is gunned down in the gang-infested back alleys of 1980's New York City, it begins a complicated series of events that causes gang leader Ash to go up against mafia don "Papa" Dino. The series sends Ash and his allies across the country and against political intrigues in search of the truth behind the mysterious and deadly substance "Banana Fish."



© 1987 Akimi YOSHIDA/
Shogakukan Inc.

From Far Away

by Kyoko Hikawa: This series from the top of Japanese sales charts is the masterpiece of the renowned shojo artist Kyoko Hikawa. The tale of a girl blasted into another world, *From Far Away* has all the action and romance you might expect but with a whole lot of extra twists. For one thing, the heroine doesn't understand the language! She must learn to speak while struggling to understand this new world and the mysterious young man who has become her protector. All the while, she is unaware of the dire destiny she is meant to fulfill.



Kanatahara
© Kyoko Hikawa 1991/
HAKUSENSHA, Inc.

Editor's comments

No, this is not the end—there's plenty more Basara yet to go!

Yes, Shuri was trying to kill himself. In historic Japan, to avoid capture or when samurai failed an assigned task or were defeated, sometimes they would commit "seppuku" or "harakiri," ritual suicide through self-disembowelment (literally "belly cutting"). It's interesting that Shuri should wonder how he was supposed to know how to do it, since it is a rite someone of his position would likely have been trained to perform.

Why did Ageha cut his hair? In ancient times, Japanese men had long hair usually worn in a topknot called a *damage*. Cutting their long hair short was symbolic of a life-altering decision or change, and that certainly seems to be the case for Ageha in this book!

Several food references appear in this volume, the first being on page 49. Raizo is clutching a ceramic container (*hibachi*) filled with hot coals and ash that is used for heating and cooking in traditional Japanese homes. The two blobby things on top of it are likely grilled *mochi*. Mochi is made from pounding glutenous rice into a sticky mass that can be dried or eaten fresh. Although it can also be eaten with savory foods, grilling dried mochi and eating it with sweet beans (*azuki*) is a wintertime treat.

Roasting sweet potatoes (*yaki-imo*) in an outdoor fire is also a cold weather custom, one that is as delightful and delectable as Tamura has portrayed it.

Sarasa candy is a Sendai specialty. What makes these simple hard sugar candies unique is that they come attached to the tines of a bamboo whisk (*sarasa*) and are a part of *Tamabata*, Japan's romantic summertime Star Festival.

Made from steamed whitefish pounded into a paste and molded into a variety of shapes, colors and sizes, *kamaboko* is commonly translated as "fish cakes."

Also, we'd like to mention, again, that Shikoku and Shikoku City are different places. The kanji for the inland sea island are "four" and "country." Located near modern-day Sendai, Shikoku City's kanji mean "purple" and "black."

